

My National Park Service Internship Experience

At 18, I landed a summer internship with the National Park Service in the United States. I was assigned to work in a different national park every month, so I had to live with four different park rangers' families during the internship. My first host family was the Smith family in Yosemite National Park, California. Mr. Smith was a park ranger, and Mrs. Smith was a botanist. They had two children, a son and a daughter. I spent most of my time hiking with the Smith family and learning about the park's flora and fauna. Mrs. Smith taught me how to identify plants and animals, and Mr. Smith showed me how to protect the park's natural resources.

I then moved to Yellowstone National Park, living with the Jones family. Mr. Jones was a senior ranger, and Mrs. Jones was a geologist. They had three children, two sons and a daughter. We would often hike in the park and observe the geothermal features. Mrs. Jones would explain to me the formation of geysers and hot springs. Mr. Jones taught me how to track animals and prevent wildlife-human conflicts.

After Yellowstone, I moved to the Grand Canyon National Park, where I lived with the Williams family. Mr. Williams was a park ranger, and Mrs. Williams was a historian. They had a son and a daughter. We would often hike in the park and learn about the park's history. Mrs. Williams would take us to ancient ruins and explain their significance. Mr. Williams would show us how to preserve the park's cultural resources.

Finally, I moved to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where I lived with the Browns family. Mr. Browns was a park ranger, and Mrs. Browns was a wildlife biologist. They had two children, a son and a daughter. We would often hike in the park and observe the park's wildlife. Mrs. Browns would explain the park's ecology and how to maintain biodiversity. Mr. Browns would show us how to protect the park's natural resources from pollution and climate change.

The four families I lived with taught me the importance of protecting our national parks and preserving our natural and cultural heritage. I learned that every park has unique features and that every ranger has a specialty. The internship made me more sensitive to the environment's needs and taught me how to be a good steward of nature. I also learned to live with different families and adapt to new environments.

In conclusion, my internship with the National Park Service was a life-changing experience that shaped my future career path. I realized that I wanted to be a park ranger and work to preserve our national parks' natural and cultural resources. The four families I lived with will always hold a special place in my heart, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have lived with them and learned from them.